

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A winch assembly comprising

5 a) a person lowering and raising winch component attached to a carriage component, the carriage component being configured for coupling to a carriage track of an overhead support for displacement thereof along the carriage track

and

b) a carriage displacement component for inducing displacement of the carriage component along the carriage track,

10 the carriage displacement component comprising an electric motor element and a clutch coupling element

the electric motor element being configured for providing driving effort for the displacement of the carriage component along the carriage track

15 the clutch coupling element being configured for coupling and de-coupling the driving effort of the electric motor element such that

when the driving effort of the electric motor element is coupled and the electric motor element is energised the carriage component may be urged along the carriage track by the electric motor element and

20 when the driving effort of the electric motor element is de-coupled the carriage component may be manually displaced along the carriage track.